Nov. 30, 1905

Thanksgiving Day.

It is unnecessary to preface my remarks with an historical review of the origin of Thanksgiving Day. You all are acquainted with the Puritans and Separatists of 1610, how the former tried to purify the church of England, while the latter withdrew from it altogther and sought for a land in which they could enjoy freedom of worship. ¶ On this day of thanksgiving and prayer we recall to mind the failure of the Separatists in their efforts to sail for Holland, their imprisonment and final release; and at last we see the almost frustrated second attempt crowned with success. Ahoy, oh land of religious freedom, ahoy! The easy-going Dutch life was not the right environment for the refugees, so after ten years of it, the Separatists return to their native land.

All preparations completed, they embark in the Mayflower and Speedwell, bent on a long sea-voyage to Jamestown in America. Misfortune had concealed herself in the hold of the Speedwell, however, for that ship soon sprang a leak. Back to port they had to go. The disappointment did not dishearten the separatists nor turn them away from their set purpose. As many as could boarded the other craft, and hence it was that in the year 1620 the Mayflower with its 102 souls left the shores of England to sail for ~~the colonies~~ the new world. Jamestown was the goal, but you know how the raging storms of the Atlantic drove the vessel far out of its course, finally landing its precious freight at Plymouth Rock.

Alas, a severe winter settled down upon the newly ~~established~~ founded colony. No one can describe the terrible sufferings endured. Only fifty

survived the rigor of that snowbound winter. With undaunted courage, the remaining colonists welcomed the warm Spring of the year with its sunshine, food, and help. The friendly Indians taught them how to plant corn and assisted them in many ways to become established permanently and safely. Because the Summer yielded rich harvests and there was great cause for rejoicing, Governor Bradford set aside a certain day for thanksgiving unto God for His blessings so bountifully given. Together with the Indians, who had brought wild turkeys and other game, the Plymouth colonists sang praises unto God, lifted up their hearts in gratitude to their Heavenly Father, and entered upon the merry feast of rejoicing. So much for the origin of Thanksgiving Day.

As a nation we have much for which to be thankful. Through the grace of Almighty God we are no longer a number of struggling colonies harassed by hostile Indians, on the one hand, and oppressed by the mother countries, on the other. These United States of ours have grown into a ~~mighty~~ powerful nation second to none. There is no country whose history is so free from shameful events and disgraceful proceedings as our own United States. There is no people's name so unsullied and trustworthy as ours. No other national aim and purpose has ever reached our sublime heights of freedom, liberty and peace. Our beloved and Christian President, Theodore Roosevelt, has proven himself to be, beyond all doubt and peradventure, the greatest and most able ruler on earth at the present time. Through him we not only are peace-keepers with the whole world, but we ~~com~~ act the role of peace-makers as well. We not only can glory in the

in the wonderful growth of our government, but we can also rejoice over our increased material wealth and prosperity. No country is as resourceful, hence we are more independent than are the other nations. The commercial supremacy if not already ours, soon will be. The wheels of industry, set in motion by Yankee grit and enterprise keep the working-man busy earning higher wages than are paid elsewhere the world over. ~~Truly~~, God's blessings are being bountifully bestowed upon us who can proudly claim for our own this land of the free and home of the brave.

While God is thus fulfilling His blessed promises, He expects the United States to make the most of her national opportunity. Responsibility of citizenship in this grand Republic is necessarily a great one. Being a gov't of the people, by the people, and for the people, the nation's weal or woe is the individual's. In times of war patriotism runs high, every heart beating loyal and

true to the stars and stripes. Although we are at peace with the world, our President urges, in his message, that we should keep our patriotism aflame, for it is necessary that every man, woman, and child of us should fight against the foes of passions, appetites, and follies, any one of which can place our gov't in a greater peril than could the combined fleets and armies of Europe. If we wish to preserve the integrity and honor of our fair name, we must guard it against the rottening influences of the vices mentioned. Passions, appetites, and follies! Into these three words can be dumped the sins of humanity. these are the wolves trying to destroy the sanctity of our homes, the morale of our society, and the spiritual natures of our people. The very foundation of our government is endangered by them, for they are already eating their way into our midst. Oh, would that every citizen of the United States, male and female, on this Thanksgiving Day in the Year of our

Lord, 1905, harkening to the pleadings of their beloved President, might renounce their evil ways and rally around the stars and stripes clean and Godfearing lives such as a gov't like ours must have for its lasting maintainance. Social and labor problems would speedily reach their solution; the evils of divorce and polygamy would soon be removed; the sacredness of the ballot would again be established; political corruption would be buried forever; while our greatest curse, the american saloon, would be hurled back into the mouth of hell from whence it came. In our thanks unto God, dear friends, let us pray earnestly for the consecration of our citizenship to the righteousness of God.

We all have a great deal to be thankful for. Our very trials and troubles are blessings in the disguise. That man who can sit down to his turkey dinner on this

day with a complaining and thankless heart, is indeed a most miserable wretch.

We have a right to believe that all things work together for good to those who love the Lord. In our praises unto Him, let us pray for the more unfortunate ones, for those still in darkness and sin, for those who must go hungry, today; for the thousands of starving souls in the world; for the sick, and the blind, and the lame and the halt, and for those who are in sorrow and distress.

With hearts thus filled with a sincere thankfulness unto God, and with a feeling of brotherly kindness toward all our fellow creatures, as children of God we can truly enjoy the feast set before this day.

Amen.